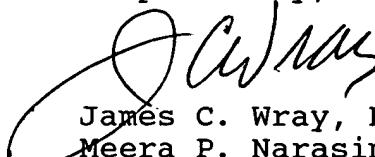


Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendment and consideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended as below:

3. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim[s] 1 [and 2], wherein said substantial vertical supports comprise an upper and a lower tube.

4. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim[s] 1 [to 3], wherein said upper tubes of substantially vertical supports are equipped with an internal and an external strengthening component.

6. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim[s] 1 [to 4], wherein the diameter of said lower tube is different from the diameter of said upper tube so that said upper and lower tubes can slide vertically independently of one another.

9. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 [or 8] wherein said supporting cable is made of a highly tensile material.

10. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 [or 9] wherein the tension of said supporting cable is adjustable by cable-clamping devices implemented on said substantially vertical supports.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim[s] 11 [and 12], wherein said substantial vertical supports comprise an upper and a lower tube.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim[s] 11 [to 13], wherein said upper tubes of substantially vertical supports are equipped with an internal and an external strengthening component.

16. (Amended) A method according to claim[s] 11 [to 14], wherein the diameter of said lower tube is different from the diameter of said upper tube so that said upper and lower tubes can slide vertically independently of one another.

19. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 [or 18] wherein said supporting cable is made of a highly tensile material.

20. (Amended) A method according to claim 11 [or 19] wherein the tension of said supporting cable is adjustable by cable-clamping devices implemented on said substantially vertical supports.